

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05
OES-07 OMB-01 /054 W
-----110768 052117Z /73

R 051301Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3343
AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 2172

VIENNA AND PARIS FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, CZ
SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK DRUG SEIZURES

REF: VIENNA 6894 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS IN CZECHOSLOVAK CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION CONCERNING REPORT IN JULY 21 PRACE. UNFORTUNATELY, CUSTOMS HAS NOT YET AGREED TO MEETING WITH EMBOFF. IF INTERVIEW IS GRANTED, EMBOFF WILL SEEK INFORMATION, AND AGREEMENT TO MEET VIENNA DEA REPRESENTATIVE. CHANCES OF SUCCESS ON EITHER POINT APPEAR SLIM.

2. EMBASSY HAS TRANSLATED PRACE ARTICLE AND SUBSTANCE, WHICH FOLLOWS, MAY BE HELPFUL:
THE FIRST TWO ARRESTS WERE MADE BY CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AT THE CHEB RAILWAY STATION WHEN HASHISH WAS FOUND, IN BOTH CASES, ON THE EXPRESS TRAIN TO NURENBERG AND ZURICH. THE ACCOUNT OF THE ARRENTS WAS PRECEDED BY A NOTE THAT CZECHO-
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SLOVAKIA IS AN ADVANTAGEOUS TRANSIT STATE FOR MOVING HASHISH INTO WEST GERMANY. IT THEN SAYS QUOTE IN NORTHERN PAKISTAN THE GROWERS OF HEMP SELL 1 KG OF HASHISH OF AVERAGE QUALITY FOR 20 DM, BY THE TIME IT REACHES KABUL IT COSTS 60 - 80 DM. IF SMUGGLED INTO KABUL BY ROAD, CLOSELY GUARDED BY ANTI-HASHISH UNITS, THE PRICE IS AS HIGH AS 100 DM. AT THE BOSPHORUS THE

PRICE GOES UP TO 400 DM AND THE WEST GERMAN MEDIATORS
PAY THE IMPORTERS 1,000 - 2,000 DM, DEPENDING ON
QUALITY. UNQUOTE. THE ARTICLE DOES NOT STATE DIRECTLY
THAT THIS WAS THE ROUTE OF THE HASHISH TAKEN IN THE
CHEB ARRESTS.

3. FIRST ARREST OCCURRED WHEN CUSTOMS OFFICIALS
BECAME SUSPICIOUS OF SHARP PERFUME-LIKE ODOR IN
CABIN OCCUPIED BY PASSENGERS FROM "MIDDLE EAST".
HASHISH WAS EVENTUALLY FOUND IN FALSE
BOTTOM OF SUITCASE. SECOND ARREST OCCURRED WEEK
LATER WHEN SAME SHARP ODOR TIPPED CUSTOMS
INVESTIGATORS. THIS TIME HASHISH WAS CONCEALED IN
SPECIALLY TAILORED VEST WORN AGAIN, PRESUMABLY, BY
PASSENGER FROM MIDDLE EAST.

4. THIRD ARREST CAME AT RUZYNE AIRPORT IN PRAGUE
WHEN PASSENGER DESTINED FOR WEST GERMANY FROM
BAGHDAD WAS SPOTTED WITH TWO SUITCASES WITH HOLLOW
WALLS. BOTH CONTAINED HASHISH. ALL ARRESTS WERE
PRESUMABLY RECENT BUT NO DATES ARE GIVEN.
FROWICK

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Message Attributes

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